been recommended to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to take up the proposal with the Japanese Government for funding.

With assistance of OECF (now known as Japanese Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Ajanta Ellora Conservation and Tourism Development Project was undertaken in Maharashtra. Loan agreement for 3.745 billion Yen was signed in January, 1992. First phase has already been completed in March 1999 and extension phase is to be completed by March, 2002. Government of Maharashtra wants assistance for Phase II of project with an estimated outlay of Rs.522.07 crores. The same has been recommended to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance to take up the proposal with the Japanese Government for funding.

The matter of improvement of roads was taken up by Department of Tourism with the Ministry of Roads Transport and National Highways. The following works have been sanctioned accordingly:—

(i) Improvement of riding quality in km 0 to 46 Biharsarif-Rajgir Hisua Section of NH-82.

(ii) Rehabilitation of pavement on NH-82 Hisua-Gaya Section (km 46 to 67).

(iii) Improvement of riding quality Hisua-Gaya-Bodhgaya section from 67.2 to 106 km of NH-82.

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. (HUDCO) has been commissioned to prepare a Master Plan with focus on tourism and conservation for Bodhgaya.

Hotel Industry of infrastructure sector

1761. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recognized the hotel industry as an infrastructure sector since it has been a sub-sector to tourism;

(b) if not, whether Government plans on this issue; and

(c) in what manner Government are using the international offices

of the tourism department to promote tourism in the country and the amount spent on each of tourist offices abroad per year?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the demand of the tourism industry, the Ministry of Tourism has taken up the matter regarding grant of infrastructure status with the Ministry of Finance, which however, has not- been accepted, so far.

(c) The Department of Tourism uses its international offices to promote tourism by undertaking various activities *viz.* liase with media, travel trade, airlines and other travel related bodies; organising promotional activities like seminars, film shows; participation in travel shows/travel marts; educational/familiarisation tours to India to selected media/travel agents and travel industry opinion makers; production of destination films and other promotional materials including audio visuals, television presentation programmes, posters, folders, public relations including organising and delivering lectures, talks, interviews on radio, television and the press on Destination India etc. The amount spent on each tourist office abroad is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Hotel Industry of Infrastructure Sector

Summary Statement showing expenditure during the Years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 in respect of Goito, abroad

(Rupees in Lakhs)

1	2	3	4
S.No.	Goito/Station	Expenditure 2000-01	Provision in R.E. 2001-02
1.	Operation Europe	560.24	567.00
2.	Frankfurt	120.00	120.00
3.	Stockholm	124.94	180.00
	Amsterdam		

S.No.	Goito/Station	Expenditure 2000-01	Provision in R.E. 2001-02
1	2	3	4
4.	Madrid	179.29	205.00
'5.	Milan	155.00	165.00
6.	Paris	230.05	230.00
7.	Tel Aviv	73.70	80.00
8.	Moscow	93.06	80.00
	Operation UK		.
9.	London Operation	600.00	544.00
	America		
10.	New York	767.33	685.00
11.	Los Angeles	106.28	120.00
12.	Toronto	120.00	120.00
13.	Buenos Aires Operation	195.00	180.00
	West Asia		
14.	Dubai	639.05	570.00
15.	Johannesburg Operation	138.00	155.00
	East Asia		
16.	Tokyo	363.65	390
	Operation Australia		
17.	Singapore	219.55	220.00
18.	Sydney	305.72	305.00
	TOTAL	5001.22	4916.00

Decline in tourist arrivals

t1762. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of the tourists in the country has come down to less than half after the month of September last year;

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.